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### **Warmer Weather Mitigates Some Impact of High Heating Fuel Prices**

Augusta, Maine – The Governor’s Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its weekly heating fuel survey on Monday, November 21, 2011 and found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be **\$3.66 per gallon**, which is the same as last week.

“While average heating prices are about 80 cents higher than this time last year, Maine’s warmer Fall weather this year has contributed to a 14% decline in heating degree days to date,” said OEIS Director Ken Fletcher. “Looking at longer climate trends for Maine, heating degree days have declined approximately 15% between 2007 and 2010, with a decline ranging from 2% - 30% during the peak heating season months, December – March”. See

[http://www.weatherdatadepot.com/?pi\\_ad\\_id=6251685145&gclid=COX81buGuawCFacEQAodkg6GHW](http://www.weatherdatadepot.com/?pi_ad_id=6251685145&gclid=COX81buGuawCFacEQAodkg6GHW). Using this week’s average heating oil price and converting to a common heating unit value (million Btu) the price of fuel oil is at \$26.39. This compares with an equivalent heating unit value for natural gas of \$16.00 (at \$1.60/therm); propane, \$33.94 (at \$3.10/gallon); wood pellets, \$14.67 (at \$242/ton); and cord wood, \$10.50 (at \$210/cord).

*As of November 21, 2011*

Heating Oil	Statewide	Southwest	Central	Eastern	Western	Northern
Average	3.66	3.63	3.66	3.71	3.57	3.79
High	3.85	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.70	3.85
Low	3.44	3.45	3.55	3.60	3.44	3.75
Kerosene	4.08	4.07	4.09	4.09	3.95	4.19
Propane	3.10					

It is important to note that the price for heating oil is a statewide average and that prices in a given geographic region of the state may be considerably higher or lower than the statewide average. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$3.44 per gallon was found in the Western region. The highest price of \$3.85 per gallon was found in the Northern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$4.08 per gallon at this time. The statewide average for propane *based on a use of 925 gallons a year* is \$3.10 per gallon. The table above provides current Maine cash prices in dollars rounded to the nearest penny. On November 21, the price of WTI crude oil, a major driver of refined petroleum product prices, including heating oil was at \$97.41 per barrel.

Efficiency Maine links Maine homeowners and businesses with qualified, certified contractors who provide access to energy improvement options. For program details call 866-376-2463 or visit [www.efficiencymaine.com](http://www.efficiencymaine.com).